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ABSTRACT

In order to measure the importance of financial assistance to part-time students and develop a profile of part-time students at Worthington Community College (WCC), a questionnaire was designed and mailed to each of the 255 persons who had enrolled at WCC as part-time students during the 1974-75 college year. Although the response rate was low (29.4 percent), certain persistent indications were noted: financial assistance is desired and needed by many part-time students; in many cases, finances are a key factor in a decision to terminate or delay the realization of educational goals. Most part-time students are married, and bear considerable familial responsibilities, adding to the financial burden of attending college. The greatest financial difficulty is realized by women students, particularly married women students. When financial assistance is available, progress toward the realization of educational goals is enhanced--as evidenced by the average credit load carried. Since part-time students offer short-term, rather pragmatic reasons for attending college, the most effective dispersal of financial assistance may be in the form of many small grants, which should be sufficient to encourage students to meet short-term goals. Data are organized into charts and tables, and the survey instrument is appended. (Author/NHM)

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FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE PART-TIME STUDENT at WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

by

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Dean of Students

December 5, 1975

JC 760 012

INTRODUCTION

During the past two years, Worthington Community College has experienced an enrollment phenomenon that is being repeated in countless colleges and universities throughout the nation; that is, an increasing number of part-time[1] students. During the 1974-75 year, for example, 255 different persons enrolled for one or more credits at Worthington Community College.

During this same two-year period, the college functioned as one of eight schools[2] in a consortium which distributed funds from the Otto Bremer Foundation for part-time, older (25 years of age or above) student scholarships. At the end of Summer Session, 1975, Worthington Community College had granted 83 Otto Bremer Scholarships. The increase in part-time student enrollment was paralleled by a like increase in the number of applicants for and recipients of Otto Bremer Scholarships. It appeared from this relationship that the availability of financial aids might directly influence a person's willingness and/or ability to attend college. If this were so, then it would seem desirable to attempt to discover the extent of financial need among part-time students and to what extent such need related to college attendance and progress toward personal educationally-related goals.

In order to perhaps achieve a greater realization of the importance of financial assistance to part-time students and to gain a more complete profile of part-time students at Worthington Community College, a

[1] For purposes of this study a part-time student is defined as a person who carries a load of less than 12 college credits.

[2] The eight schools are Southwest State University, Worthington Community College, Willmar Community College, Canby AVTI, Pipestone AVTI, Granite Falls AVTI, and Jackson AVTI.

survey was undertaken. A questionnaire[3] was developed and mailed (July 18, 1975) to each of the 255 persons who had enrolled at WCC as part-time students during the 1974-75 college year. Enclosed with the questionnaire was a cover letter[4] explaining the purpose of the survey, and a stamped, return-addressed envelope.

RESPONSES TO SURVEY

In all 35 different communities were represented among the 255 students. Of the 255 questionnaires sent out, 65 (29.4%) were completed and returned. Table I describes the response to the survey.

TABLE I

RESPONSE BY COMMUNITY OF RESIDENCE

Communities	No. Sent*	No. Returned	% of Return
Worthington	142	45	69.2
Windom	34	6	9.2
Adrian	8	2	3.1
Jackson	5	2	3.1
Magnolia	2	2	3.1
Bigelow	3	1	1.5
Brewster	3	1	1.5
Lakefield	6	1	1.5
Luverne	6	1	1.5
Pipestone	2	1	1.5
Reading	4	1	1.5
Round Lake	5	1	1.5
Rushmore	4	1	1.5
TOTAL		65	

*Others sent, no reply: Sheldon, IA-1, Sibley, IA-2, Lake Park, IA-2, White, SD,-1, St. James-1, Lake Benton-1, Beaver Creek-1, Sherburn-1, Hills-1, Fulda-3, Ellsworth-2, Wilmont-2, Edgerton-1, Avoca-2, Dundee-1, Mt. Lake-2, Kenneth-1, Heron Lake-3, Okabena-1, Iona-1, Bingham Lake-1, Jeffers-1

[3] See Attachment #1

[4] See Attachment #2

Just as the largest per cent of part-time students were from the immediate Worthington area (55.7%), so too was the largest per cent of replies (69.2%) from Worthington area residents. Responses were received from students representing 13 different regional communities (37.1% of all communities represented in the part-time enrollment).

Some of the first significant information about the nature of WCC's part-time student population concerns the sex and marital status of these students. An overwhelming per cent (86.2%) are married. In addition, of those responding to the survey, nearly seven out of ten (69.2%) were women. Such figures readily imply that at WCC part-time students bear heavy family obligations.

TABLE II

RESPONSES*BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS

Marital Status	Male	%	Female	%	Total	%
Married	18	27.7	38	58.4	56	86.2
Single	2	3.1	7	10.8	9	13.8
TOTAL	20	30.8	45	69.2	65	100.00

*Persons returning completed questionnaire.

When the ages of these part-time students are examined, one finds that the part-time students are typically older than are full-time students. For example, nearly half of those surveyed (47.3%) are between the ages of 30-50. Yet another third (34.5%) are between the ages of 20-29. Most of the older students are also married: Every student between the ages of 40-49 was married; 16 of 17 students between the ages of 30-39 were married; and 12 of 19 students between the ages of 20-29 were married.

TABLE III

AGE OF RESPONDENTS

	Married Male	%	Married Female	%	Single Male	%	Single Female	%	Total	%
60-64	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
50-59	0	0.0	8	14.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	14.5
40-49	3	5.5	6	10.9	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	16.4
30-39	5	9.1	11	20.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	17	30.9
20-29	6	10.9	6	10.9	1	1.8	6	10.9	19	34.5
under 20	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	1	1.8
	14	25.4	32	58.2	2	3.6	7	12.7	55	100.0

Usually, as might be expected, these same married, older students also had a number of dependents. Of the 51 persons who responded to the question regarding number of dependents, including self, 31 (60.8%) claimed more than one dependent. Once again, part-time students typically are responsible for the well-being of more persons than themselves. One married male, for instance, claimed 10 dependents. Twenty-five (25) of the 31 persons with more dependents than themselves claimed between 3-6 dependents.

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS, INCLUDING SELF

(see page 5)

Again reflecting the increase in the number of Otto Bremer Scholarships awarded[5] during the 1974-75 college year was the increase in each succeeding quarter of part-time students enrolled in classes at WCC.

[5] Fall Quarter-29, Winter Quarter-14, Spring Quarter-15

TABLE IV

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS, INCLUDING SELF

	1	%	2	%	3	%	4	%	5	%	6	%	7	%	10	%	No Res	%	Total	%
Married Male	1	1.6	1	1.6	4	6.2	5	7.7	3	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	3	4.6	18	27.7
Married Female	11	16.9	2	3.1	3	4.6	3	4.6	3	4.6	2	3.1	1	1.6	0	0.0	11	16.9	36	55.4
Single Male	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1
Single Female	6	9.2	1	1.6	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	13.8
TOTAL	20	30.8	4	6.2	9	13.8	8	12.3	6	9.2	2	3.1	1	1.6	1	1.6	14	21.5	65	100.0

TABLE V

NUMBER OF PART-TIME STUDENTS
ATTENDING WCC BY QUARTER

	Fall Qtr.	%	Wtr. Qtr.	%	Spr. Qtr.	%	Total	%	Summer Session	%
Married Male	6	6.1	9	9.1	7	7.1	22	22.2	1	1.0
Married Female	21	21.2	20	20.2	23	23.2	64	64.6	2	2.0
Single Male	0	0.0	1	1.0	2	2.0	3	3.0	0	0.0
Single Female	2	2.0	3	3.0	5	5.1	10	10.1	0	0.0
TOTAL	29	29.3	33	33.3	37	37.4	99	100.0	3	2.9

Total enrollment figures for the college indicate that there were 77 part-time students in Fall Quarter, 127 part-time students in Winter Quarter, and 114 part-time students in spring quarter.

Of greater significance than enrollment by quarter might be the number of quarters attended by part-time students during a college year. In 1974-75, of the 63 persons who indicated how many quarters they attended, the majority (57.3%) attended only one quarter. Of them 12 (35.3%) indicated they would not be able to continue college next year if they did not receive financial assistance and 22 (64.7%) said they would be able to continue without financial assistance. Although these figures are not substantial, it nevertheless appears as if one of every three part-time students may have been handicapped by financial reasons which precluded his or her attending WCC on even a part-time basis for more than one quarter.

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF QUARTERS ATTENDED WCC

(see page 7)

TABLE VI

NUMBER OF QUARTERS ATTENDED WCC

	# of Quarters 1	%	2	%	3	%	Total	%	1 Qtr. & SS	%	Grand Total	%	NO Answer
Married Male	12	19.7	3	4.9	1	1.6	16	26.2	1	1.6	17	27.0	1
Married Female	15	24.6	11	18.0	9	14.8	35	57.4	1	1.6	36	57.1	1
Single Male	1	1.6	1	1.6	0	0.0	2	3.3	0	0.0	2	3.2	0
Single Female	7	11.5	0	0.0	1	1.6	8	13.1	0	0.0	8	12.7	0
TOTAL	35	57.3	15	24.6	11	18.0	61	100.0	2	3.2	63	100.0	2

Approximately one of every three persons responding to the survey received one or more Otto Bremer Scholarships during the year. Twenty-one (32.3%) of the respondees received a total of 34 Otto Bremer Scholarships. Interestingly, nearly nine out of ten recipients (88.3%) were married women; the remaining 11.7% were married males. No single persons received scholarships; this is reasonable to expect in that only two of the single respondees met the 25 or older age requirement for the Otto Bremer Scholarship. What is significant is the large number and per cent of recipients who were women. Because no qualified[6] applicant for an Otto Bremer Scholarship was refused a scholarship, it would appear that financial assistance is an especially significant need of married women who attend college as part-time students.

TABLE VII

OTTO BREMER SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

(see page 9)

Fifty-five (84.6%) of the respondees indicated they had earned one or more credits during the 1974-75 college year. One person claimed to have earned no credits, and nine persons failed to respond to this question. Generally speaking, part-time students who responded to the survey did not earn a great number of credits during the year. 62.4% of all respondees earned between 1 - 6 credits; another 19.8% of all respondees earned between 8 - 12 credits. Several part-time students did, however, earn a substantial number of credits: Two married women each earned 30 credits for the year; one married man earned 33 credits, the maximum possible

[6]Applicants must be 25 or older, residents of Minnesota, and enrolled as part-time students (less than 12 credits).

TABLE VII

OTTO BREMER SCHOLARSHIPS RECEIVED

	Fall Qtr.	%	Wtr. Qtr.	%	Spr. Qtr.	%	Total	%	Summer Session	Grand Total	%
Married Male	1	3.0	2	6.1	0	0.0	3	9.1	1	4	11.7
Married Female	12	36.4	10	30.3	8	24.2	30	90.9	0	30	88.3
Single Male	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
Single Female	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0
TOTAL	13	39.4	12	36.4	8	24.2	33	100.0	1	34	100.0

number of credits that a person could earn and still be classified as a part-time student. The question that arises here is to what extent lack of financial resources precluded enrolling in a larger number of credits. Persons who received Otto Bremer Scholarships averaged 10½ credits earned for the year; both married women who earned 30 credits received Otto Bremer Scholarships, one individual receiving a scholarship each of three quarters. It would seem apparent that financial assistance (provided by the Otto Bremer Scholarship in these instances) is a very real incentive to earn more credits in a given period of time.

TABLE VIII

TOTAL CREDITS EARNED

	Married Male	%	Married Female	%	Single Male	%	Single Female	%	Tot.	%
No response	4	6.2	5	7.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	13.8
0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
1	1	1.8	3	5.4	0	0.0	1	1.8	5	8.9
2	3	5.4	5	8.9	0	0.0	3	5.4	11	19.6
3	0	0.0	3	5.4	0	0.0	2	3.6	5	8.9
4	1	1.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	1	1.8	3	5.4
5	2	3.6	3	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	8.9
6	3	5.4	3	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	6	10.7
7	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
8	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	2	3.6
9	1	1.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6
10	1	1.8	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6
11	0	0.0	3	5.4	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	5.4
12	0	0.0	2	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6
15	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	1	1.8
17	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
19	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
20	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
24	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
26	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8	0	0.0	1	1.8
30	0	0.0	2	3.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.6
33	1	1.8	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.8
	14	25.0	32	57.1	2	3.6	8	14.3	56	100.0

Ability to pay for the costs of college seems to be a reasonably obvious requisite for college attendance, whether part- or full-time. A person's employment status, then, might be an indication of his or her ability to pay for college and, by extension, that person's likelihood of attending college.

Slightly over half (51.6%) of the part-time students who replied to the survey were employed full-time (40 or more hours a week); another 18.8% were employed part-time. Significantly, of the 19 unemployed persons (29.7% of entire group of respondees), all 19 were women (18 married). Once more, women--particularly married women--appear to be most lacking in financial resources for college attendance. This high unemployment figure for women certainly must bear a strong relationship to the very high percentage of Otto Bremer Scholarships applied for and received by women.

TABLE IX

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	Full Time	%	Part time	%	Unemployed	%	Total	%	No Response	%
Married Male	18	28.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	28.1	0	0.0
Married Female	11	17.2	7	10.9	18	28.1	36	56.3	1	1.5
Single Male	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1	0	0.0
Single Female	2	3.1	5	7.8	1	1.6	8	12.5	0	0.0
TOTAL	33	51.6	12	18.8	19	29.7	64	100.0	1	1.5

Generally speaking, respondees to the survey did not represent extremely low economic groups. Based upon gross annual family income, only one in ten (11.5%) had annual incomes of less than $5,000. Three of ten (31.2%) had incomes of $10,000 or less (82% of this group were women). However, approximately half of the group surveyed (50.8%) had annual incomes of

between $10-20,000. These figures certainly would seem to indicate that very low income persons are not attending the college in any great numbers. At the same time, the fact that 82% of all part-time students who responded have gross annual incomes of under $20,000 would indicate that most of these people are involved in what has been variously described nationally as the "middle class squeeze." These are the persons who have reasonably good incomes, but find it difficult to any longer "make ends meet" and find it an increasing hardship to afford any further "extras"; for many of these people, attending college classes unfortunately becomes the unaffordable "extra." Of the seven persons whose incomes fell below $5,000 annually, five said they would not be able to continue college next year without financial assistance, and all seven said furthering their education would enable them to increase their income. Of the twelve whose income was between $5-10,000 annually, five said they wouldn't be able to continue college next year without financial assistance, and eleven of them said furthering their education would enable them to increase their income.

TABLE X

GROSS FAMILY INCOME

(see page 13)

Thirty different persons (46.7% of entire group) received various forms of financial assistance while attending college. The largest single source of aid was the Otto Bremer Incentive Scholarship program. Other forms of assistance included: VA benefits, Social Security, CETA, Alliss Foundation, Head Start, and Family Services.

TABLE X

GROSS FAMILY INCOME

	Married Male	%	Married Female	%	Single Male	%	Single Female	%	Total	%
$30,000 and Over	2	3.3	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	1.6	3	4.9
$20-30,000	1	1.6	7	11.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	8	13.1
$15-20,000	3	4.9	9	14.8	1	1.6	0	0.0	13	21.3
$10-15,000	10	16.4	8	13.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	29.5
$ 5-10,000	2	3.3	7	11.5	0	0.0	3	4.9	12	19.7
Less than $5,000	0	0.0	4	6.6	1	1.6	2	3.3	7	11.5
TOTAL	18	29.5	35	57.4	2	3.3	6	9.8	61	100.0

TABLE XI

SOURCES OF ASSISTANCE

	Married Male	%	Married Female	%	Single Male	%	Single Female	%	Total	%
V. A. Benefits	4	6.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	4	6.1
Social Security	0	0.0	2	3.0	0	0.0	1	1.5	3	4.5
Voc. Rehab.	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Other*	3	4.5	21	31.8	0	0.0	1	1.5	25	37.9
None	11	16.7	15	22.7	2	3.0	6	9.1	34	51.5
TOTAL	18	37.3	38	57.6	2	3.0	8	12.1	66	100.0

*HSST Head Start-2, Otto Bremer-21, Family Services-1, CETA-1, Alliss Scholarship-1

Respondees were asked if they had specific educational objectives or goals that would require additional assistance in order to be achieved. Thirty persons (46.2%) responded in the affirmative, and twenty-nine (44.6%) in the negative. Again, married women indicated the greatest need for assistance.

TABLE XII

SPECIFIC EDUCATIONAL GOALS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE

	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	%	Total	%
Married Male	6	9.2	12	18.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	27.7
Married Female	17	26.2	15	23.1	2	3.1	3	4.6	37	56.9
Single Male	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1
Single Female	5	7.7	2	3.1	0	0.0	1	1.5	8	12.3
TOTAL	30	46.2	29	44.6	2	3.1	4	6.2	65	100.0

Regardless of the felt need for financial assistance for continuing their college educations, a substantial majority (56.9%) of the respondees indicated that they would be able to continue their education without financial assistance. Twenty-one respondees (32.3%) said they would not be able to continue, and three (4.6%) said "maybe" they could continue. However, several of the "yes" respondees qualified their response with comments such as "with difficulty" or "possibly - but on a limited basis, very few credits at a time." The largest per cents who replied "no" were women. The important figure here, however, is that one out of every three could not continue--a substantial loss in people and their educational hopes.

TABLE XIII

ABILITY TO CONTINUE EDUCATION WITHOUT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	%	Total	%
Married Male	15	23.1	3	4.6	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	27.7
Married Female	18	27.7	13	20.0	3	4.6	3	4.6	37	56.9
Single Male	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1
Single Female	2	3.1	5	7.7	0	0.0	1	1.5	8	12.3
TOTAL	37	56.9	21	32.3	3	4.6	4	6.2	65	100.0

The availability of sufficient financial assistance apparently would not appreciably increase the number or percent of part-time students who would attend full-time. Approximately three of every four persons who gave a definite answer to this question said they would continue as part-time students even if sufficient financial assistance were available. Apparently, financial assistance does not diminish other responsibilities and/or demands on these person's time; however, it probably makes college attendance less of a financial strain. The biggest difference in attendance, if financial assistance were available was among women: two of every three single women would attend full-time, and one of every six married women would attend full-time.

TABLE XIV

WOULD CONTINUE EDUCATION FULL OR PART-TIME IF SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WERE AVAILABLE

(see page 17)

One of the strongest and most significant responses to any question was that given to the question, "Would furthering your education enable you to increase your income?" Seven of every ten respondees (69.2%) replied that it would. Another 6.2% said "maybe" it would. Less than one in

TABLE XIV

WOULD CONTINUE EDUCATION FULL OR PART-TIME IF SUFFICIENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WERE AVAILABLE

	Attend College									
	Full time	%	Part time	%	Indefinite	%	No Response	%	Total	%
Married Male	2	3.1	11	16.9	0	0.0	5	7.7	18	27.7
Married Female	5	7.7	24	36.9	1	1.5	7	10.8	37	56.9
Single Male	1	1.5	1	1.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1
Single Female	4	6.2	2	3.1	0	0.0	2	3.1	8	12.3
TOTAL	12	18.5	38	58.5	1	1.5	14	21.5	65	100.0

five (18.5%) said it would not. Most significantly, 84% of all women respondees said it would; if the women who said "maybe" it would were added to the number who said "yes", then over 90% of all women respondees would--in their minds--benefit financially from furthering their education.

TABLE XV

FURTHERING EDUCATION WOULD INCREASE INCOME

	Yes	%	No	%	Maybe	%	No Response	%	Total	%
Married Male	12	18.5	6	9.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	18	27.7
Married Female	25	38.5	5	7.7	3	4.6	4	6.2	37	56.9
Single Male	2	3.1	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	3.1
Single Female	6	9.2	1	1.5	1	1.5	0	0.0	8	12.3
TOTAL	45	69.2	12	18.5	4	6.2	4	6.2	65	100.0

Earning a degree at Worthington Community College is not a primary goal of most of these part-time students. In fact, 23.1% of the sample were presently working for a WCC degree. Again, the largest percent were married women.

TABLE XVI

WORKING FOR WCC DEGREE

	Yes	%	No	%	Total	%
Married Male	4	6.2	14	21.5	18	27.7
Married Female	11	16.9	26	40.0	37	56.9
Single Male	0	0.0	2	3.1	2	3.1
Single Female	0	0.0	8	12.3	8	12.3
TOTAL	15	23.1	50	76.9	65	100.0

Respondees who said they were not working for a WCC degree were asked to indicate reasons for taking courses at WCC. Multiple replies were common. However, most persons said they took courses at WCC for "Personal Satisfaction" (34.1%) or to satisfy a "Special Interest" (32.9%); In

any case, the reasons indicated ought to also point out necessary considerations in future course planning and scheduling at WCC.

TABLE XVII

REASONS FOR TAKING COURSES AT WCC

(see page 20)

One possible indicator of financial stress for part-time students was whether other members of their families were attending college and, if so, how many were attending. Approximately three in ten (29.2%) of the part-time students said there were one or more other members of their families attending college at the same time as they were. The largest per cents who indicated this were women, both single and married. No one indicated more than three members were in college besides themselves. Thirteen (68.4%) had one other member in college; 10.5% had two, and 21.1% had three. Although this is not a large number or per cent, it nevertheless indicates a further financial strain on the families of many part-time students--perhaps it is a reason or the reason why they are part-time students and not full-time students.

TABLE XVIII

OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS ATTENDING COLLEGE

	Yes	%	No	%	Total	%	Number in College				
							1	2	3	Total	%
Married Male	4	6.2	14	21.5	18	27.7	4	0	0	4	21.2
Married Female	11	16.9	26	40.0	37	56.9	6	2	3	11	57.9
Single Male	0	0.0	2	3.1	2	3.1	0	0	0	0	0.0
Single Female	4	6.2	4	6.2	8	12.3	3	0	1	4	21.1
TOTAL	19	29.2	46	70.8	65	100.0	13	2	4	19	100.0

TABLE XVII

REASONS FOR TAKING COURSES AT WCC

	Married Male	%	Married Female	%	Single Male	%	Single Female	%	Total	%
Personal Satifisfaction	7	3.7	17	20.7	0	0.0	4	4.9	28	34.1
Job Advancement	2	2.4	9	11.0	0	0.0	2	2.4	13	15.9
Special Interest	8	9.8	15	18.3	1	1.2	3	3.7	27	32.9
Other*	4	4.9	8	9.8	0	0.0	2	2.4	14	17.1
No Answer	2	2.1	9	9.6	1	1.1	0	0.0	12	12.8
TOTAL	23/21	24.5/25.6	58/49	61.7/59.8	2/1	2.1/1.2	11	13.4	94/82	+100.0

*Complete 2 year degree, continue at 4-year school, something to do, cont. ed. in nursing, courses related classes she's teaching, use in teaching, raise GPA, some day be able to earn a degree, help to return to school after being out 5 years.

+Second number is total less "No Answer". Percentages based upon "82".

An open-end question completed the survey; here was an opportunity for respondees to make further comments about WCC, being a part-time student, financial assistance to part-time students, or whatever else they wished to address themselves to. Interestingly twenty-seven (41.6%)[7] took the time to express matters of concern to them, in some cases at great length. A compendium of these comments is contained in attachment #3.

CONCLUSION

Understandably, the sample here is relatively small, so conclusions must be received with a modicum of restraint. Nevertheless, certain reasonable and persistent indications may be noted as a result of this survey.

1. Part-time students do experience financial difficulty in attending college.
2. Financial assistance is desired and apparently needed by many part-time students; in many cases, it is essential to continuing or terminating (or at least delaying) one's realization of educational goals.
3. The greatest financial difficulty among part-time students is realized by women students, in particular married women students.
4. Most part-time students are married and, coincident with this, bear considerable familial responsibilities, adding to the financial burden of attending college.
5. Where financial assistance is available (i.e., the Otto Bremer Foundation Incentive Scholarship), the finanical strain is greatly lessened and progress towards the realization of educational goals is enhanced--as evidenced by the average credit load carried.
6. The reasons given by part-time students for attending college indicate short-term, rather pragmatic purposes; it may be that not a great amount of financial assistance would be needed by most part-time students in order for them to realize these immediate goals.
7. An investment--via financial assistance--in these part-time students, particularly women, would seem to promise immediate positive results at least in terms of earning power.
8. Financial assistance for part-time students would appear to be greatly needed and a vastly worthwile investment.

[7] 16-married females, 7-married males, and 4-single females

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Worthington, MN 56187

July 18, 1975

Dear Student:

We need your help.

In turn, you may be helping yourself and others like yourself. During the past year, you were enrolled as a part-time student at Worthington Community College. You were one of many such part-time students; in fact, about 30% of WCC students last year were "Part-timers". Nationally, nearly 55% of all college students were part-time.

Unfortunately, for many of these millions of part-time students, going to college means an ongoing "extra cost of living". It is a good guess that there are many millions of people in this country who would like to attend college on at least a limited basis but who cannot because of the costs involved.

In spite of the above facts, there is at present no financial aid--other than some private money, like the Otto Bremer Foundation Scholarships at WCC--available to part-time students.

There is a very strong probability that a bill will be introduced in next January's legislative session that would make state financial aid available to part-time students who need help in order to attend college or continue college.

Now, here is where you come into the picture. Accompanying this letter is a brief, one-page questionnaire. The results of this questionnaire survey of all part-time students at WCC during 1974-75 will be compiled and used as "evidence" of the nature and extent of financial needs among part-time students. This information, in turn, will be made available to the legislature.

We would appreciate it if you would take the few minutes necessary to complete the entire questionnaire and return to Student Services by August 15, 1975. Please do not attach your name to the questionnaire. All individual replies will be kept strictly confidential; all information that we use will be used in terms of the entire group surveyed.

Answer all questions. Feel free to expand on any of your replies and/or to comment on any other aspects of the problems of being a part-time student.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and help. We hope you will be back with us this next college year (and while you're at it, encourage a friend or neighbor to try it).

Sincerely,

Paul L. Kegel
Dean of Students

PLKsab
enclosures

Student Services

WORTHINGTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Part-time Student Survey

July, 1975

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE ANSWERS:

___ Married Male ___ Married Female ___ Age Last Birthday
___ Single Male ___ Single Female ___ Number of dependents (include self)

Present Residence: _____ city _____ county _____ state

Attended WCC: ___ Fall Qtr. 1974-75 ___ Winter Qtr. 1974-75 ___ Spring Qtr. 1974-75

Credits Earned: ___ Fall Qtr. ___ Winter Qtr. ___ Spring Qtr. Total for Year ___

Received Otto Bremer Scholarships: ___ Fall Qtr. ___ Winter Qtr. ___ Spring Qtr.

Employment Status:
___ Full-time (40 hours or more)
___ Part-time; ___ number of hours a week
___ Unemployed at present

Gross Family Income:
___ Less than $5000 annually
___ $5000-10,000
___ $10,000-15,000
___ $15,000-20,000
___ $20,000-30,000
___ $30,000 & Up

Sources of Assistance now Available:
___ VA Benefits
___ Social Security Benefits
___ Vocational Rehabilitation
___ Other; please specify _____

Do you have specific educational objectives or goals that would require additional assistance in order to be achieved: ___ Yes ___ No

Will you be able to continue college next year if you do not receive financial assistance: ___ Yes ___ No

If sufficient financial assistance were available to you, would you:
___ attend college full-time ___ continue college part-time

Would furthering your education enable you to increase your income: ___ Yes ___ No

Are you presently working towards a degree at WCC: ___ Yes ___ No, if no, please indicate reason for taking courses at WCC: ___ personal satisfaction, ___ job advancement, ___ special interest, ___ Other, Please specify _____

Are other members of your family presently attending college: ___ Yes ___ no, if yes, please indicate the number of family members attending college: _____.

If you wish to make further comments regarding WCC, being a part-time student, or financial assistance to part-time students, please use this space (and the back of this questionnaire, if necessary): _____

Thank you for your help and cooperation.

RANDOM COMMENTS

Comments in answer to the following question: "If you wish to make further comments regarding WCC, being a part-time student, or financial assistance to part-time students, please use this space (and the back of this questionnaire, if necessary):"

"WCC seems to really be a service to the surrounding Worthington area. Adults in this area are fortunate to have a place to continue their education. Maybe many adults don't know of the opportunities available. More widespread publicity of the opportunities would be helpful."

"I was pleased to receive the Otto Bremer scholarship during Spring Quarter, 1975. I would have had to quit WCC for one quarter to save up more money for tuition-books had I not received the scholarship. I felt much more confident in my classes at age 25 than I did at age 17. I sincerely hope that more older students can get back to college in the near future."

"The personal attention & cooperation given to the students cannot be rated high enough. You have tried as best you can to provide the necessary classes I need. Keep up the good work."

"Have greatly appreciated the opportunity to attend college made possible through the Otto Bremer Scholarship."

"In addition to tuition costs I have transportation expenses driving 60 miles round trip to class. Financial aid would make it easier for me to continue."

"I would like to strongly endorse any legislative action that would give financial aid to part-time students. However, I can see where this type of program could be abused and therefore end up like countless other government programs -- a high percentage of money poured into the administration of a program and a comparatively low percentage of the allocated money actually reaching the source it is to help. Therefore, I would suggest that the legislature give the same status to part-time students as full-time students are given. As I understand it, then the colleges would be given greater financial support by the state because of the increased status of the part-time student. This increased financial aid would allow the colleges to adequately maintain their facilities & buildings and give increases in salaries to all employees and instructors without having to raise tuition in order to keep the college functioning. How, do you ask can this help a part-time student financially? It can help by keeping the cost of going to college the same in 1980 as it is now. With inflation as rampant as it is now this would be financial aid of a type, thereby benefiting both the full and part-time student. This could also be easily implemented through the same administration that maintains the colleges now."

"The course I took dealt with Management - employee relations and was taught at the TORO Company by Dr. Baruth. I would certainly be interested in any future courses to be taught at my place of employment, but would require considerable financial aid to commute to Worthington and carry a normal part-time load there."

RANDOM COMMENTS (CON'T)

"I would like to see more financial assistance used to help a part-time student through school as I could not afford to go as the cost of raising a family is bad enough and I feel that being a part-time student is all I could handle being a mother I have to give my children some care too."

"The hours spent as a part-time student have been rewarding as a person and as a parent."

"I have been taking painting classes for 3 years now, 3 winter quarters no credit, 2 fall quarters, 5 quarter credits. If the course had not been taught at Windom middle school I could not have gone."

"I'd really appreciate financial assistance as I am the head of the family with a minor child and need schooling in order to obtain a job that will comply with living expenses."

"Living on AFDC is no piece of cake. Trying to climb up out of poverty at times seems impossible. Without financial help from an outside source I would not be going back to school on a full-time basis in the fall."

"It would be impossible for me to attend college without financial assistance because of other obligations."

UNIVERSITY OF CALIF.
LOS ANGELES

JAN 9 1976

CLEARINGHOUSE FOR
JUNIOR COLLEGES